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BOURNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

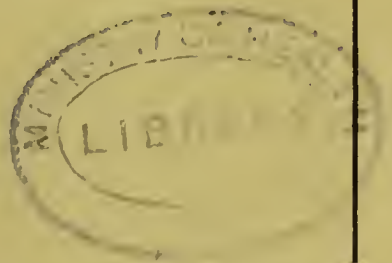
of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1955.



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR DR. G. HOLLOWAY, C.C.

Members :

Councillor J. S. BRUMLEY

„ J. BURCHNELL, J.P.
„ L. R. W. DAY, M.A.
„ DR. J. A. GALLETLY
„ T. R. LYALL
„ P. O'DELL
„ MRS. I. E. PICK

Medical Officer of Health :

H. ELLIS SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer :

W. H. HOWARD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. W. BROWN, M.R.S.I.

Clerks :

N. E. BELLAMY
Miss F. WADE

BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Bourne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second Annual Report on the Vital Statistics, Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Urban District together with comments on the environmental factors associated with them.

The Birth Rate of 12.84 per thousand estimated population is lower than the rate for England and Wales of 15.0.

The Death Rate at 10.90 per thousand estimated population compares favourably with that for England and Wales at 11.7. It will be noticed that in these comparisons I am making use of the Comparability Factor.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales of 24.9 per 1,000 live births was the lowest ever recorded and it is good to report that the Urban District contributed to this record by a complete freedom from Infantile deaths.

During the early months of the year there was a high incidence of Influenza throughout the area—a type A virus was isolated. One death resulted from this disease. Later there was a sharp epidemic of Measles which reaching its climax at a rather unusual time of the year, fortunately was mild.

With the introduction of a new Vaccine which it is hoped will provide a considerable degree of protection against Poliomyelitis and with the Medical Research Council pronouncing in favour of B.C.G. Vaccination in the fight against Tuberculosis it will be well not to forget the old and trusty prophylactics. There must be no falling off in the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign if we are to remain free from this scourge. Once again I stress the importance of having all children immunised before their first birthday. The apathy to Smallpox Vaccination continues and is a clear instance of unfamiliarity breeding contempt.

Diseases of the Cardio-vascular system are again the principle causes of death, followed by Malignant Growths. Deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung and Bronchus were four, so Bourne has its own reflection of the National problem—the cause of Lung Cancer. I am convinced that there is sufficient evidence to warrant a campaign to discourage all who have not started to smoke from doing so and in particular those now leaving school should be warned of the dangers.

As I have interpolated comments within the body of my report I only wish to reiterate one point, namely, that I trust the commencement of the new sewage works will soon be possible for reasons which I have given. I consider this a matter of paramount importance, warranting no delay.

I would like to thank the members of the Council and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help, support and interest in all aspects of the work embraced by this report. I would also like to thank the Clerk and my colleagues Mr. Howard and Mr. Brown for their unstinting co-operation and assistance.

Finally I wish to thank Dr. Galletly for so kindly standing by for me when I have been away.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. ELLIS SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	10,103
Population—Registrar General's Figures 1955	...	...	...	...	...	5,060
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,648
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£26,802
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£107

VITAL STATISTICS

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1955

Note Birth and Death Rates.

As the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas materially affects both the Birth and Death rates of these areas, comparability factors allowing for this are issued by the Registrar General for each Local Government Unit. These factors may be used for calculating what are termed in this Report as Nett Rates and fairer comparisons are obtained if the latter are used when comparing rates with those of any other area (when these have been similarly adjusted) or with the rates for the Country as a whole.

These factors for Births and Deaths in respect of Bourne U.D. are 0.97 and 0.89 respectively. The corresponding figures when multiplied by the Crude Rate (that is, for Births or Deaths as the case may be) will give the Nett Rate.

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total Live Births	...	...	37	31	68
Legitimate	...	...	36	30	66
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	2
Crude live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population					13.24
Nett live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population					12.84
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.0
			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Still Births	...	...	1	1	2
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...			28.57
Rate of England and Wales	...	...	...	...	23.1
			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths	...	...	30	32	62
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population					12.25
Nett death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...				10.90
Rate of England and Wales	...	...	...	...	11.7
Infantile Mortality (i.e. Deaths of Infants under the age of one year):					
			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of deaths	...		0	0	0
Legitimate	...	...	0	0	0
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 of live births	...	...	...	...	0
Rate of England and Wales	...	...	...	...	24.9
Maternal Mortality (i.e. Deaths due to Pregnancy and Child-birth or abortion): <i>Nil.</i>					

CAUSES OF DEATH

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	...	...	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...		3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms			4	2	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...		4	8	12
Coronary disease angina	...	...	6	3	9
Other heart disease	...	...	4	13	17
Other circulatory disease	...	...	—	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1	—	1
Bronchitis	...	...	1	1	2
Influenza	...	...	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	1	—	1
Other defined and ill defined disease	...		2	1	3
Suicide	...	...	1	—	1

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

Nursing in the Home

Under the County Council Scheme there are two District Nurse Midwives.

Home Helps

Home Helps are provided by the County Council in approved cases. The Local Headquarters are at the North Street Clinic, Bourne. Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 p.m.

Health Visiting

Under the County Council scheme one full-time Visitor is employed for work within the Urban District and she also covers some of the surrounding area.

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service continues to work smoothly and efficiently. There are 3 ambulances and one dual purpose vehicle stationed at Bourne Ambulance Depot. Attendants are provided by the B.R.C.S. and St. John's.

Full Hospital Services are provided by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

Tuberculosis Clinic

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Bourne Isolation Hospital each Thursday afternoon under Dr. Bernard Joyce, Consulting Chest Physician.

Venereal Diseases

Clinics are held at the Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. N. A. Ross.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 5.30—7 p.m. ...

Tuesdays 10.30—12 noon.

Infant Welfare

An Infant Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council at the National School, North Street, Bourne, and a School Clinic is held in the same premises each Thursday morning.

Free Diphtheria Immunisation is provided by the Medical Practitioners under the County Council Scheme.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological investigations are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough under Dr. D. H. Fulton. This valuable service includes examination of milk and water samples and general bacteriological examinations for both the Medical Practitioners and the Public Health Service.

I would like to thank Dr. Croll of Lincoln Public Health Laboratory for all the help he gave during the Paratyphoid investigations at St. Peter's Hospital and in the Egg Albumen sampling.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Medical Practitioners in Bourne for their ready help and co-operation with the work of the Health Department.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The water supply is obtained from the Lincolnshire Limestone by means of a 13-inch bore.

The supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity during the year. It is chlorinated as a routine, and is obtained as a bulk supply from the Spalding U.D.C. Water Undertaking.

Sewage

The sewage works out-moded and unchanged still, by virtue of overloading, continues to discharge large quantities of partially treated sewage into the Weir Dyke. This inevitably leads to gross pollution within the Urban District. This fact renders the early start of work on a modern sewage disposal works a vital necessity and should remove the subject out of the realm of dialectics into action.

The swimming bath provided by the Bourne United Charities is situated in delightful surroundings and brings its boons to all interested in the healthful pastime. It is most welcome that consideration is being given to the provision of modern sanitation, thereby further adding to its attraction.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Total
Under													
1 year	-	-	1	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
1—2	-	-	1	-	39	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
3—4	-	-	1	-	51	14	-	-	2	-	-	-	68
5—9	-	-	2	-	166	17	-	1	2	-	-	-	188
9—15	-	-	1	-	7	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	12
15—20	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
20—35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
35—45	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
45—65	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4
65 and over	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Totals	-	-	12	-	265	52	2	1	10	-	-	2	344
Admitted into Hospital	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3

There were 344 cases of Notifiable Diseases during the year compared with 60 in 1953 and 72 in 1954. The great increase was due to a large outbreak of measles in late May, June and early July. Fortunately the disease was mild and complications were few—possibly due to its being later in the year than normal.

Whooping Cough at 82 was markedly more prevalent than in 1954 when there were 26 and in 1953 when there were 11 cases.

Two cases of Paratyphoid infection occurred among the inmates of St. Peter's Hospital, Bourne, and were the sequel to the infections of the previous year when there were seven cases. This underlined the hazards of enteric infections in a Mental Deficiency Institution. Energetic efforts were made to contain the infection and to ensure that no known carriers were returned to the Hospital. The hunt for carriers was long and thorough and Dr. Croll and his Public Health Laboratory staff deserve much thanks for their help in this work and in the concomitant investigations of sewer swabs and sewage work effluents, as well as Dr. Fulton at Peterborough.

There were no cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis during the year. The promise of an effective vaccine for this disease has

marked a big advance in the field of preventive medicine and brings sanguine hope of an effective measure of control in the future. In the meantime good personal hygiene and clean food handling while important at all times are vital in respect of the disease.

The streptococcal group of disease showed a fall from 21 in 1954 to 12.

There was no case of Diphtheria in 1955.

The policy of sending a letter to the parent in any household where a case of infectious disease was notified pointing out his main responsibilities under the Public Health Act in preventing the spread of the disease was continued.

Disinfection Services were carried out where necessary.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY IN 1954:

Age Periods	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
			Non				Non	
	Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2—5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5—15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15—25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25—35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35—45	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45—55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55—65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

Three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with five in 1954, three in 1953 and five in 1952.

I would like to see a closer tie up between the work of the curative and preventive sides as this would be of great advantage to both and to the patient.

HOUSING

Following on the Survey of the houses in the area a five year Slum Clearance programme was formulated to deal with 108 houses. The programme was submitted to the Ministry for their approval.

A first step in implementing the scheme was the Victoria Place Clearance Area. This involved 8 houses and the proposal had been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, by the end of the year.

Careful long term planning and close liaison between those responsible for the Slum Clearance programme and House Building will be called for to facilitate the smooth and expeditious working of the scheme.

Further details are incorporated in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Council's Slaughterhouse is providing an efficient service to the community and the Council intend a further extension to include a hanging room. Slaughtering is also carried on at two licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban area. 100% meat inspection is maintained.

A firm declaration of Government Policy with regard to the moderate concentration of slaughterhouses is still awaited. The report of the Interdepartmental Committee on the subject conveyed the impression that the suggestions contained therein were unworkable.

A sample of Chinese Egg Albumen taken within the area was found on examination to be contaminated with a *Salmonella Paratyphosis B.* organism. The isolation was done by Dr. Croll and confirmed by the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale. The Medical Officer of Health London—the Port of Arrival and the importers were informed. A vigorous investigation of all similar products was carried out, but no further samples were implicated. It was of considerable interest that though two samples were taken from the 14 lb. pack mentioned above one was negative while the other was positive showing how easily the infection could be missed in a random search.

A letter was sent to all known bakeries and confectioners warning them of the dangers in using this commodity except under conditions where prolonged heating would render any contamination innocuous.

A beast suffering from Anthrax was unknowingly admitted to a slaughterhouse. Full precautions were taken on the spot and all who handled the beast were offered protective inoculation. This incident demonstrates the risk involved in admitting casualties to slaughterhouses without the certificate of a Veterinary Surgeon.

Your Sanitary Inspectors kept a watch on food premises and on the handling of food. At the end of the year the new Food Hygiene Regulations put new powers in their hands which were long overdue. Whether they will permit of a full scale counter offensive on the annually increasing incidence of Dysentery and Food Poisoning throughout the Country remains to be seen. A synopsis of the Regulations and a covering letter were sent to every food premises within the district.

Ice Cream and the water supply to the Watercress beds within the Urban District were kept under supervision.

The supervision of milk from cow to consumer remains in the hands of three different authorities and the divided control makes it difficult for anyone to have a clear picture of the position at any given time. This I submit is wrong. Should no supervision of this important item of food come within the jurisdiction of local Health Committees?

Further details of food inspection and supervision will appear in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Food Poisoning

No case of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

National Assistance Act

No action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act has been necessary during the year. In one case however it was only after much cajolement and numerous visits that it was avoided and sweet reasonableness won the day.

Health Education

Advantage was taken of the Ministry of Health's offer of free press publicity for the furtherance of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign. This was reinforced by posters displayed locally and thanks to the helpful co-operation of the County Librarian Anti-Diphtheria Campaign Book Marks were distributed with books on loan.

A series of eight display panels in connection with Food Poisoning propaganda were obtained put on display.

In addition the Health Department Staff and the Health Visitor on the County Medical Officer of Health's Staff have continued to declaim on the undoubted benefits of positive health and the avoidance of those factors which militate against it. This rightly constitutes a fundamentally important aspect of their day to day work.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Bourne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report as follows:—

Water Supplies.—Mains, apart from new Housing Schemes, have been extended in Wood View, Cherry Holt Lane and Willoughby Road.

Swimming Pool.—This was the subject of attention during the season and apart from routine sampling of the waters for bacteriological examination and on-the-spot orthotolidine testing of chlorination efficiency, a full review was made of the amenities provided. The Medical Officer of Health compiled a Code of Hygiene for users of the pool to observe and copies of this are now prominently displayed on the premises. The Sanitary accommodation is considered to be unsatisfactory but it is hoped that the responsible body will soon take effective measures to modernise same.

Sewage Disposal and Drainage.—Additional housing units and industrial undertakings continue to increase the burden of operating the inadequate sewage works on an efficient basis and gross pollution of watercourses continues. The Lincolnshire River Board have the matter under constant observation.

Following an outbreak of Salm. Para. B. in the town, considerable attention was given towards determining the extent of contamination of the sewage system and works. The investigations brought to light that the sewage works sludge and the sedimentation tanks remained contaminated with the specific organism for months. This resulted in a number of precautionary measures, notably the withdrawal from sale of the sludge and arrangements for its suitable disposal and enforcement of the strictest hygiene precautions by employees engaged on sewer works in the sections contaminated.

Refuse Collection.—Refuse is collected weekly in the Town area and fortnightly at Dyke, Cawthorpe and the Fen areas, and a weekly trade refuse collection service is made on payment of costs. During the year separate provision was made for salvage of waste paper for which a market was obtained.

Rodent Control.—Periodic treatment of sewage works, refuse tip and slaughterhouse was carried out during the year and com-

plaints of rat and mice infestation were investigated; for much of the year the Council was without the services of a rodent operator and in consequence the number of premises receiving treatment is low as during this period only urgent cases could be dealt with.

22 dwellinghouses, 3 business and 8 public authority premises received treatment as a result of inspection following complaint or survey.

The Council now have an employee who is proving an efficient Rodent Operator.

Public Health, Housing and Miscellaneous Acts.—115 matters of a miscellaneous nature were dealt with following complaint, survey or request for advice and resulted in 27 informal notifications and the service of 8 statutory notices for remedial works.

HOUSING

Statistics of new houses erected in the Bourne U.D.C. area during 1955:

	1954	1955
New housing units provided by the Council ...	28	35
New housing units provided privately ...	7	6
I. INSPECTION OF HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.		
1. (a) Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...		190
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...		289
2. (a) Number of houses found to be in a state not fit for human habitation and not capable of being made so fit or not capable of being made so fit at reasonable expense. ...		110
(b) Number of houses (excluding those in 2 (a)) found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation ...		31
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS IN HOUSES DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.		
(a) Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Authority or its Officers ...		25
(b) Number of unfit houses demolished without the service of formal notices ...		—
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.		
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...		—
B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:		
(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring remedy of defects ...		5

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) by Owners	5
(b) by Authority in default of Owners ...	—
c. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	2
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	1
(3) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were given ...	—
(4) Number of houses converted to other use in pursuance of such undertakings	—
d. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	—
e. Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of Clearance Areas made during the year (submitted to the Minister)	1
(2) Number of houses included in the Area ...	8
f. Proceedings under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:	
Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
g. Rent and Mortgage Restriction Acts:	
Number of houses in respect of which Certificates of Disrepair were issued	—
4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.	
1. (a) Number of houses overcrowded at the end of the year	3
(b) Number of families resident therein	5
(c) Number of persons concerned	18½
2. (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	27½
5. HOUSING ACT, 1949.	
Number of grants approved in respect of the improvement, adaptation or conversion of housing units during the year	—

The slum clearance survey reflects in the statistics just indicated. The Council's five-year programme for slum clearance was submitted to the Minister and the scheme commenced with the

declaration of the Victoria Place No. 1 Clearance Area and demolition orders on two houses in Eastgate.

The efficiency of the operation of the Scheme will depend to a large extent on the availability of alternative housing units provided by the local authority comparable with the economic circumstances of the potential displaced persons.

A serious aspect of Slum Clearance is the problem which manifests itself in the inability of the lower income group to afford even the economic rents of Council houses without seriously lowering their standards of living. Whilst the National Assistance Board will help aged or pensioned persons regarding rent often the pride of such eligible persons prevent them from taking advantage of this service.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Public Slaughterhouse.—The Slaughterhouse operated by the Council saw many changes during the year and the administrative circumstances were acute, but were solved by the end of the year. The Slaughterhouse was enlarged, a cooling hall built and other amenities provided for the efficient handling of meat. The premises may now be stated to be admirably sited and as good as any of its size.

Private Slaughterhouses.—Two private slaughterhouses, one licensed for the slaughter of horses, also operate in the district.

Slaughtermen.—12 licences authorising the slaughter or stunning of animals were issued; a number of licences were applied for but on applicants being required to submit to a test to determine their capabilities such applications were withdrawn.

Meat Inspection.—Ante-mortem inspection of animals awaiting slaughter was carried out wherever possible and post-mortem examination of carcasses and offal was made in all cases.

A total of 6,617 animals were examined for fitness for human food during the year and this figure may be analysed as follows:—

Bulls	Bullocks	Cows	Heifers	Calves
20	504	501	305	48
Sheep and Lambs		Pigs	Horses	
2329		2429	481	

The total weight of meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption was:—

Meat	Offal
28 tons, 7 cwts., 95 lbs.	8 tons, 9 cwts., 105 lbs.

The following table gives details of carcasses and offal examined and particulars of diseases found and the extent to which the animals were affected. In addition a number of carcasses or parts were considered unfit by reason of injury and affections other than disease.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	829	501	48	2329	2429	481
All diseases except Tuberculosis:						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	24	38	6	53	8	5
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	99	150	4	45	122	157
Percentage of number examined affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	14.84	37.52	20.83	4.20	5.35	33.68
Tuberculosis:						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	6	46	4	—	1	—
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	76	145	—	—	86	—
Percentage of number examined affected with Tuberculosis	9.89	38.12	8.33	—	3.56	—
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Fatstock Marketing Scheme—Pigs. — This service has been offered at the Council's slaughterhouse designated as a Deadweight Certification Centre and 200 pigs were presented.

Milk Supplies.—The District is supplied with milk by five retailers and the bulk of supplies is designated. The Medical Officer of Health has remarked in his report on the milk supply situation and I endorse his sentiments entirely. Observations in the slaughterhouse and the ever-increasing trend towards heat-treatment by distributors leads one to conclude that the present supervision of dairy herd management and the safeguarding of milk at source presents considerable problems.

Food Premises.—The various food shops, restaurants, cafés and public houses in the area were the subject of attention and cases of default were dealt with but difficulties arose in the knowledge that the long-awaited Food Hygiene Regulations were not quite ready. Their issue at the end of the year was a considerable relief but whilst they are an excellent improvement on previous control it would seem that education and gentle persuasion are to continue to be the main source of improvements in food hygiene.

General foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption ranged from bottled pears to canned plum and apple pudding and total weight of goods so found amounted to:—

2 cwts., 23 lbs., 15 ozs.

Ice Cream.—Sampling and a close watch on the handling of this commodity reflected in satisfactory products reaching the public. In one instance it was found that insufficient care was being exercised in handling and sales stopped; the provision of a refrigeration cabinet does not obviate responsibility for keeping its interior in a tidy, clean and wholesome condition. Again it is unfortunate that a more reliable test than the Methylene Blue cannot be found for determining the bacteriological quality of ice-cream.

Shops Act, 1950.—23 shops were visited in connection with the provisions of this act relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and temperature; the necessary action was taken in respect of two contraventions which were found.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.—The following account of control in this aspect of environmental hygiene was submitted to the Minister.

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(1) Factories without Mechanical Power —Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority	14	10	1
(2) Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	35	4
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	4	2	0

Contraventions of Factories Acts requirements were found in 10 cases and the necessary action taken for remedy.

I must take this opportunity of emphasising two major items which in my opinion require immediate attention in ministerial circles:—

1. That all unfit meat and offals should be stained prior to disposal as required during the control by the Ministry of Food.
2. That casualty animals should only be admitted to a slaughterhouse accompanied by a veterinary surgeon's certificate.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support given me by my staff and fellow officers.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. HOWARD.

Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer.

